

# State Legislators for Health Reform

- Established on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 by the White House
- 32 state leaders around the country tasked with:
  - Sharing President Obama's vision for health reform
  - Sharing information about Congress's work on health reform, answering questions, and dispelling myths about health reform
  - Gathering information about what our citizens want and need from national health reform

A large, light blue watermark of the White House seal is centered in the background of the slide. It features an eagle with a shield, holding an olive branch and arrows, with a constellation of stars above its head. Below the eagle, the words "THE WHITE HOUSE" and "WASHINGTON" are inscribed in a serif font.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

# State Legislators for Health Reform

- Our health care system is broken
- People are paying more for health insurance that covers less.
- Families are concerned with eroding benefits, higher premiums, and loss of coverage.
- Every day in America, millions go without health coverage because of pre-existing conditions.
- Our nation cannot wait any longer for health reform. We need it now.

# House Tri-Committee Bill, HB 3200

- Require all individuals to have health insurance.
- Create a Health Insurance Exchange through which individuals and smaller employers can purchase health coverage, with credits available to families with incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level (or \$73,240 for a family of three in 2009).
- Require employers to provide coverage to employees with exceptions for certain small employers, and provide certain small employers a credit to offset the costs of providing coverage.

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# House Tri-Committee Bill, HB 3200

- Impose new regulations on plans participating in the Exchange and in the small group insurance market. Expand Medicaid to 133% of the poverty level.
- Strengthen primary care and care coordination by increasing Medicaid payments for primary care providers
- Develop a national strategy to improve the nation's health through evidenced-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness activities.
- Half of the cost of the plan is financed through savings from Medicare and Medicaid, the remaining costs are financed through a surcharge imposed on families with incomes above \$350,000 and individuals with incomes above \$280,000.

# Senate Finance Committee Options

- Require all individuals to have health insurance.
- Create a Health Insurance Exchange through which individuals and small businesses can purchase health coverage, with subsidies available to families with incomes between 100 and 400% of the federal poverty level.
- Impose new regulations on the non-group and small group insurance markets. Expand Medicaid and CHIP and offer a temporary Medicare buy-in for the pre-Medicare population.
- Require employers with more than \$500,000 in total payroll per year to offer coverage to their employees and contribute at least 50% of the premium or pay an assessment.

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# Senate Finance Committee Options

- Expand Medicaid to all individuals with incomes up to 115% FPL, with a possible increase in eligibility for parents, pregnant women, and children to a higher level.
- After September 30, 2013, expand CHIP eligibility to 275% FPL.
- Create a new public plan to be offered through the Exchange that will be subject to the same rating and risk adjustment rules as the private plans. The public plan could be administered by the federal government, by multiple third-party administrators, or by the states.

# State Legislators for Health Reform

- President Obama is committed to supporting health reform that:
  - **Reduces costs** for families, business, and government
  - **Protects choice** of doctors, hospitals, and health plans
  - Assures **quality, affordable** health care for all Americans
- President Obama supports a **public health insurance option** that provides a quality, affordable choice for those who can't afford private coverage
- A public health insurance option makes our market more competitive and keeps private insurers honest